

## Weekly Address – The Continuing Saga

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Hello, this is your Congressman Michael Burgess.

Yesterday, Ambassador William Taylor and Deputy Assistant Secretary George Kent testified in the first public hearing in this impeachment investigation.

I agree with Representative Devin Nunes when he said what we witnessed was a made for television theatrical performance put on by the Democrats.

Here is my takeaway from this whole process:

**Number one** - During the 51 days since Speaker Pelosi announced the inquiry, Representative Adam Schiff has been leading the investigation behind the seat of his Chairmanship on the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. Until yesterday, every single hearing was behind closed doors with armed guards and little information was released to the public.

I believe that Chairman Schiff has taken advantage of his position to selectively choose witnesses that were brought forward to fit the narrative that the Democrats are wanting to release to the public. So, we saw their star performers and they failed to make their case.

As a member of the House Rules Committee, I was asked to vote on the authorization for the impeachment investigation before having the opportunity to review any of the evidence that had previously been gathered during the inquiry. And then the sudden release of a large volume of these depositions and I have under taken a thorough review, but it takes time.

**Takeaway number two** - Ukraine did not know that aid was being withheld and Ukraine did receive the aid on September 11, 2019.

When questioned by Congresswoman Elise Stefanik, Ambassador Taylor admitted that during this current presidential administration, Ukraine has received more funding and effective supplies than during the Obama Administration. Ambassador Taylor also admitted during his testimony that when he met with President Zelensky on three separate occasions after the July 25, call that President Zelensky only mentioned the

intention to purchase additional javelins – which are portable anti-tank missiles. Finally, President Zelensky has repeatedly said in public that he did not feel coerced to investigate and President Trump did not cause him to investigate political rivals.

**The final takeaway** – is that Republicans are not able to bring forward their own witnesses.

There is no guarantee that Republicans will ever be able to call their own witnesses to participate in these public hearings. Most notably, Chairman Schiff has denied Republicans their request to bring forward the whistleblower and Hunter Biden.

At this time, the evidence gathered and presented does not rise to an impeachable offense. And perhaps the most surprising event when witnesses were challenged to define the impeachable offenses – only silence.

It is time to put aside this politically motivated impeachment investigation and focus on providing real solutions for the American people.

As always, I appreciate your comments and your questions on this issue or any other issue. May God bless you and your family, and as the song says, God bless you Texas.